

**DRAFT MINUTES  
of the First Meeting of the  
Athletic Trainers Technical Review Committee**

**June 2, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 2:00p.m.**

**(This meeting was a teleconference)**

**Members on the call**

**Diane Jackson, APRN-FNP  
Ed Discoe, MD  
Jeffrey L. Howorth  
Alice Kindschuh, RN, APRN  
Ruth Lucas  
Lisa Pfeil  
Richard James Raska, DPM**

**Staff persons on the call**

**Matt Gelvin  
Ron Briel  
Marla Scheer**

**I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of the Agenda**

Diane Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The roll was called; a quorum was present. Ms. Jackson welcomed all attendees. The agenda and Open Meetings Law were posted and the meeting was advertised online at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Licensure/Pages/Credentialing-Review.aspx> . The committee members unanimously approved the agenda for the first meeting.

**II. Discussion on the Credentialing Review Process**

Credentialing Review Program staff provided a brief overview of the credentialing review process and then asked if there were any questions about how the review process works. There were no questions.

**III. Initial Questions and Discussion on the Proposal**

Rusty McKune, A.T., summarized the applicants' proposal. He stated that it has been twenty-two years since the last time athletic scope of practice has been reviewed and updated. Since that time (1998) the education, training, and skills of these professionals has grown significantly, and soon what was once a profession based on a baccalaureate level education will become a profession based on a masters level education. Mr. McKune went on to state that new skills and abilities have been added to the profession since 1998, and it is time for a major review and revision of this profession's scope of practice. He added that the purpose of the current athletic trainer proposal is to begin this review-and-revision process.

Michelle Walsh, M.D., spoke on behalf of the Nebraska Medical Association in support of the applicants' proposal. She commented that the skills sets of athletic trainers have been greatly augmented since the last time their scope of practice was reviewed and that these new skills call for making changes in athletic trainer scope of practice.

Allison Dering-Anderson, RP, PharmD, also expressed support for the proposal. Dr. Dering-Anderson went on to state that the inclusion of emergency medications in the proposed scope of athletic trainer practice is of great importance for the advancement of public protection and safety. She went on to express the opinion that every credentialed health professional should be permitted to utilize such emergency-related devices as epi-pens, for example.

Representatives of the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association and the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association expressed support for some aspects of the applicants' proposal but also expressed reservations about some other aspects of this proposal. Janelle Meis, OT, speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Occupational Therapy Association, stated that the proposed definition of what constitutes an injury raises concerns for her profession. Grace Knott, PT, speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Physical Therapy Association, stated that wording in the proposal pertinent to illnesses and injuries raises concerns for her profession, as well, and that she would soon be submitting a letter to the committee detailing these concerns. She added that in general these terms are being defined too broadly by the applicant group. Additionally, Ms. Knott asked the applicants to include her profession on the list of referral professions in their proposal.

Brad Stauffer, D.C., speaking on behalf of the Nebraska Chiropractic Association, expressed concerns about some provisions of the current athletic trainer proposal, particularly those pertinent to the following: 1) diagnosis of illnesses and conditions, 2) the ability of athletic trainers to utilize grade five mobilization, 3) the ability of athletic trainers to utilize manual manipulation, 4) the ability of athletic trainers to utilize dry needling, and 5) the effectiveness of oversight of the profession under the terms defined by the current proposal. Dr. Stauffer went on to state that these concerns also relate to concerns about what seems to be extensive overlaps with the scopes of practice of other health professions including Chiropractic, Occupational Therapy, and Acupuncture, for example. Dr. Stauffer added that he does not see a need for the proposal, and that other professions such as Chiropractic, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Acupuncture, for example, are already providing good access to care vis-à-vis the kinds of services referenced in the applicants' proposal.

Dr. Discoe commented that the proposal seems too open-ended, and that it is hard to find exactly where the limits of the proposed scope of athletic trainer practice would be if the proposal were to pass. He went on to state that the current proposal does not clarify what kinds of patients athletic trainers would be treating or what they'd be treating them for, adding that the overall purpose of the proposal is unclear.

An applicant representative responded that their group would have responses to the concerns and questions raised during the meeting at the next meeting.

Lisa Pfeil asked the applicants why they perceive their current practice situation to be limiting as regards the services they provide. An applicant representative responded that athletic trainers are now trained to provide services to more diverse elements of the Nebraska population than they were twenty-two years ago including non-athletes and including patients with age and developmentally related vulnerabilities, but current laws that restrict athletic trainer scope of practice do not allow them to provide services to these persons.

Grace Knott, PT, asked the applicants if they have CPT codes for third-party reimbursement. The applicants responded that they already have access to such codes. This applicant was quick to respond that third-party reimbursement is not what the current proposal is all about.

Dr. Raska asked the applicants if they see the need for additional education and training to provide the additional services defined in their proposal, and if so, is that education and training available? The applicants responded that they are seeking to make a masters level education and training the standard requirement for licensure of all athletic trainers in Nebraska, and that this should address concerns about additional training and education beyond what is currently required for licensure. Dr. Raska asked the applicants if there are enough quality CE programs available to athletic trainers to support the expanded scope of practice. The applicants responded in the affirmative.

Claire Covert-Bybee of DHHS asked the applicants about the provisions in the proposal defining the status and services provided by unlicensed athletic trainer students, specifically, would the proposal allow unlicensed practice? The applicants responded that the provision in question allows athletic trainer students to gain important clinical experience under the supervision of a licensed practitioner so that they can complete their education and training and become eligible to take their licensing examination.

#### **IV. Public Comments**

There were no additional public comments at this time.

#### **V. Other Business and Adjournment**

Program staff stated that they would send out a “doodle poll” to set the date and time for the next meeting of the committee. There being no further business, the committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m.